



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Harpers Slough Habitat Project, Pool 9, Iowa

Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the Harpers Slough area is a 2,200-acre backwater area located primarily on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River in pool 9, about 3 miles upstream of lock and dam 9. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The area is used heavily by tundra swans, Canada geese, puddle and diving ducks, black terns, nesting eagles, bitterns, and cormorants and is also significant as a fish nursery area. Many of the islands in the area have been eroded or lost because of wave action and ice movement. This island degradation allows more turbulence in the backwater area, resulting in less productive habitat for fish and wildlife. Harpers Slough is one of the few remaining areas in lower pool 9 where high quality habitat could be maintained. The proposed project would restore about 15,000 feet of islands at the upper portion of the area using material from the backwater or near the main channel. About 7,000 feet of islands in the lower portion of the area would be stabilized. The project would slow the loss of existing islands, reduce the flow of sediment-laden water into the backwaters, and increase the diversity of land and shoreline habitats.



Status

General design for the project began in 1996. A definite project report will be completed in 2006. Initiation of construction may be possible in 2007, depending on the recommended plan and program funding levels.

Authority

The Harpers Slough Habitat Project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System EMP. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project is being planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs would be 100-percent Federal because the project would be located on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs would be 100-percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$9,000,000

Non-Federal cost \$0

Total estimated cost \$9,000,000